

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show the veil recited in claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits amended figure 3 showing the veil as element 220 wrapped circumferentially around the cut back portion 150 and wedge portion 600. Applicant further submits amended Figure 6 to correct an error in numbering wherein number 140 was renumbered 170 and 170 was renumbered 140.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Under the heading "Detailed Description of the Example Embodiments", in the first paragraph on page 9, beginning on line 18:

one embodiment, the heat is applied to either side of the weld to insure more uniform heat distribution and improve catalytic response. The core 130 may then be primed (block 560). The primer 160 may become tacky in approximately 2-10 minutes. In an alternative embodiment, as stated above, the primer 160 may take longer or shorter time to become ready for application of composite layer 140 depending on the primer utilized (see above for alternative embodiments of the primer). The joint tape 210 is then applied circumferentially about the cut-back portions 150 (block 570). In one embodiment, a spring loaded air cylinder may be used to apply pressure to consolidate the joint reinforcement material while it is wound onto the joint. This application of pressure both improves the density of the material and minimizes wrinkling of the layers as applied. In an alternative embodiment, a polyester veil 220 may be wrapped circumferentially around the assembly at the cut back portion 150 to provide further protection of the fibers from the environment (block 582). A plastic tape may also be wrapped circumferentially around the assembly to reduce dripping of resin into the environment (block 584). Suitable tapes include polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), nylons and polyesters.

5/24/06
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REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant amends the application and seeks reconsideration thereof. In this response, two claims have been

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